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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM : AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA — 681 DESP. NO.

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON. — DATE: February 5, 1953

REF : Embassy Telegram No. 295, February 21, 1953

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
BUREAU OF
INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS
FEB - 9 1953

SUBJECT: Statement by Ambassador Guillermo TORIELLO

With reference to my telegram No. 295 of February 2, 1953 reporting statements made to the local press by Sr. Guillermo TORIELLO, Guatemalan Ambassador to the United States, I desire to transmit the Spanish text of the interview as it appeared on January 31 in the semi-official Nuestro Diario together with an informal translation.

In addition to his attacks on the leading organs of the United States press, which he described as "bought" by the large companies (my telegram under reference), Ambassador Toriello spoke of his plans for reorganizing Guatemala's diplomatic representation in Washington. According to the press, he said the Embassy in Washington should be staffed with three Secretaries, one press and cultural attaché, a Minister-Counselor, two stenographers and one "Alternate Delegate (Delegado Alterno)". He explained that the "Alternate Delegate" would represent the Ambassador either at the United Nations or in his regular diplomatic functions whenever the Ambassador could not be present himself. Thus it appears that Ambassador Toriello has in mind the creation of a new diplomatic rank between Minister-Counselor and Ambassador, a sort of "Deputy Ambassador" who would be the alter ego of his chief.

Rudolf E. Schoenfeld

Central Files 611.14/2-553

This Dispatch Must Be Returned To D/R

Enclosures:

1. Informal translation of Ambassador Toriello's press interview
2. Newspaper clippings thereof.

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ACTION COPY — DEPARTMENT OF STATE

The action office must return this permanent record copy to DC/R files with an endorsement of action taken.

FEB 16 1953

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E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.4
NARS, Date 2/5/82

Informal Translation, Press Interview by Ambassador Guillermo Toriello, Nuestro Diario, January 31, 1953

Important statements were made yesterday to members of the press by Guatemalan Ambassador to the United States, Lic. Guillermo Toriello, who is here on purely official matters and with the purpose of exchanging impressions with the President and the Foreign Minister of Guatemala.

"It is untrue that Guatemala was not invited to attend the changing of Presidents of the United States", stated Lic. Toriello. Guatemala, along with the other countries, was present on that occasion and therefore the information that Guatemala was not invited is completely false. The Government of the United States, now in the hands of the Republican Party, intends to carry on the Good Neighbor policy established by Franklin D. Roosevelt. The people of the United States - he added - are greatly in sympathy with the peoples of Latin America, especially Guatemala, and only certain backward groups, who do not approve of the country's independent economy and whose interests are thereby affected, bribe newspapermen to distort the truth about our country.

The new regime in the United States has declared itself in favor of full respect for the internal affairs of the nations of America and will continue a policy of understanding through calm, judicious action toward unity in America.

The work of dispelling prevalent erroneous concepts concerning Guatemala will take time, said Lic. Guillermo Toriello.

In response to questions put by the newspapermen, the discussion turned to the interesting theme of the United Nations in which Guatemala, through the participation of Lic. Toriello played such a brilliant role.

The meetings of the Seventh Session which recessed on December 22, afforded the Guatemalan Delegates, Lic. Guillermo Toriello and Eduardo Castillo Arreola, a brilliant opportunity.

Ambassador Toriello will be present when the meetings are resumed on February 24, since he is a member of the First Committee, namely the Political Committee which shall deal with matters of great worldwide importance, such as the Korean war, etc. etc.

Lic. Toriello is now putting the final touches on a general report of UN activities which contains a synthesis of the main concerns of our delgation. This report is very extensive and should be detailed; it will be ready within two months, at the latest.

One of the points that Lic. Toriello defined as of transcendent interest for Guatemala is, without a doubt, the triumph achieved in the UN with respect to the Belize question in which Dr. Rafael Urquía, representing the Salvadoran Government and in the name of the other Central American nations, supported Guatemala in its attempts to regain Belize and offered complete solidarity with the protests presented by Guatemala.

One of Dr. Urquía's arguments on that occasion was that Belize was a geographic problem.

Lic. Toriello is of the opinion that the foregoing point is one of the most important resolved in Guatemala's favor and he so stated during this morning's interview.

One of the points which Lic. Toriello will take up with the Minister of Foreign Relations in Guatemala will be the carrying out of a reorganization in thepersonnel of the Guatemalan Embassy in Washington. The proposed plan presented by the distinguished attorney makes provision for three secretaries, one cultural and press attaché, one Minister-Counselor, two stenographers and one Alternate Delegate whose function shall be to represent the Ambassador either when the latter cannot attend the UN or in purely diplomatic matters.

It has further been thought to obtain a teletype machine for the Embassy to transmit a daily account of the most important events in Guatemala, since the only information it receives, namely via the press, is several days old when it arrives, thus making it impossible to publish information on events in Guatemala which should be published, if possible, on the day they occur.

Ambassador Toriello is further interested in sending periodic reports on occurrences in the United States and the activities of our Diplomatic representatives throughout the country.

The Guatemalan Embassy contributes as much as it can toward promoting an increase in tourism, giving away pamphlets and descriptive literature. There is also being discussed a project to have well-documented publicity issued from the Presidency's Publicity Office containing calm, truthful information on national affairs.

For the preseht, Ambassador Toriello mentioned no names in connection with the officials who would be assigned to the Guatemalan Embassy in the United States.

"Unfortunately only a minority of the United States publications reach Guatemala, and these belong to the great 'trusts' in the United States". Lic. Toriello later amplified this statement by informing us that there existed in the United States a large number of very good publications and press organs, not of an international type, which criticize and refute in no uncertain terms the great newspapers that belong to the large monopolies.

"There is freedom of press in the United States", he added, "but there are always journalists in the pay of capital whose opinions are for sale and who defend the interests of the international companies, which attempt to discredit the peoples who are striving for their independence". "The other Press, that which does not belong to the enormous Companies, publishes articles favorable to the nations of Latin America and does not probe into matters of a purely domestic character".

In the past few days newspapers interested in confusing public opinion speculated with regard to the arrival of the Guatemalan Ambassador to the United States, Lic. Guillermo Toriello here in Guatemala. They said that Lic. Toriello's trip to Guatemala was partly due to the fact that his finca "Torolita" was being expropriated for division among the peasants.

In this connection, Lic. Toriello stated that this was completely untrue and, as we stated above, his trip was for purely official reasons.

He added further that he had attorneys in Guatemala who were responsible for this matter, which would be resolved in accordance with the appropriate laws.

It is likely that Lic. Toriello will return to his post the middle of next week, after interviews with the President of the Republic and the Minister of Foreign Relations.

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Importantes Declaraciones de Toriello

Señaló las Buenas Relaciones Entre los EE. UU. y Guatemala

Regresará la Semana Entrante Para Participar en la O. N. U.

Importantes declaraciones sirvió la mañana de hoy a los miembros de la prensa, el Embajador de Guatemala ante el Gobierno de los Estados Unidos de Norte América, Licenciado Guillermo Toriello, quien llegó al país por asuntos puramente oficiales y con el objeto de cambiar algunas impresiones con el Presidente de la República y el Canciller de Guatemala.

Magníficas relaciones con los EE. UU.

"Es mentida que Guatemala no haya sido invitada para concurrir al cambio de Presidentes de los Estados Unidos", declaró el Licenciado Toriello. Guatemala, al igual que los demás países fué acreditada en esta oportunidad, siendo de consiguiente completamente falsa la información sobre que Guatemala no había sido invitada. El Gobierno de los Estados Unidos, en manos ahora del partido Republicano, tiene la intención de proseguir con la política de buena vecindad establecida por Franklin D. Roosevelt. El pueblo norteamericano, —agregó,— siente gran simpatía por los pueblos latinoamericanos, espe-

(Pasa a la página 12, Nº 8)